

DOUGLAS COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COSAC)

PUBLIC MEETING

AGENDA

December 7, 2023

Conference Room A&B and Virtual

100 Third Street

5:30 p.m.

Instructions for virtually joining the meeting can be found at:

<https://www.douglas.co.us/board-county-commissioners/boards-commissions/open-space-advisory-committee/>

CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 PM

- I. Roll Call**
- II. COSAC Disclosures**
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2023**
- V. Administrative Announcements & Staff Activity Report**
- VI. Budget Review**
- VII. Public comment (Provisions for additional public comment will be made as deemed appropriate by Chair)**

NEW BUSINESS

- I. Historic Preservation and History Repository Update – Brittany Cassell, Curator**
- II. COSAC Strategic Initiative Final Draft Review – Dan Dertz, Director, and Mary Ann Monzani, Open Space Program Coordinator, Open Space & Natural Resources**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023
MINUTES**

Call to Order

I. RECURRING ITEMS

ROLL CALL

Jennifer Drybread, Committee Member – Present
Jim Guerra, Committee Member – Present
Patti Hostetler, Vice Chair – Present
Brian O’Malley, Committee Member - Present
Mike Parr, Committee Member – Present
Jay Sage, Chair – Present
Kathie Shandro, Committee Member – Absent

II. Disclosure for Items on the Agenda

No addition to agenda.

III. Adoption of Amended Agenda

RESULT: Approved

MOVER: O’Malley

SECONDER: Hostetler

AYES: Drybread, Guerra, Hostetler, O’Malley, Parr, Sage

ABSENT: Shandro

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes from September 7, 2023

RESULT: Approved

MOVER: O’Malley

SECONDER: Parr

AYES: Drybread, Guerra, Hostetler, O’Malley, Parr, Sage

ABSENT: Shandro

V. Administrative Announcements & Staff Activity Report

Dan Dertz, Director of Open Space & Natural Resources, and other Open Space & Natural Resources staff reported on various items including:

- Budget review will begin to be presented on a quarterly basis
- Update on the monitoring of conservation easements which are held by Douglas County
- New hires: one full time benefited Land Manager/Ranger and two limited benefit Rangers
- New hires will be introduced to COSAC at the December meeting

- Continuing work on the 2024 Open Space budget
- Sandstone Ranch Phase II Trail expansion update
- Work on a temporary use and license agreement between Douglas County and the Perry Park Water and Sanitation District
- Open Space participation in the Douglas County Eighth Grade Career Connect Day
- Update on the Greenland wildlife overpass
- Update on the renewal of the Habitat Conservation Plan as well as other natural resource initiatives

NEW BUSINESS

I. Larkspur Colorado Front Range Trail Intergovernmental Agreement – Dan Dertz, Director, and Andy Hough, Natural Resources Coordinator, Open Space & Natural Resources

Mr. Andy Hough presented the agenda item for the Larkspur Colorado Front Range Trail Intergovernmental Agreement. This agreement between Douglas County and the Town of Larkspur delineates responsibilities for the design, planning, construction, maintenance, and as well as certain costs for approximately one-half mile of trail connection for the Colorado Front Range Trail through the Town of Larkspur. Members of COSAC and staff engaged in a collective discussion pertaining to the agenda item and resulting construction of the trail connection.

Motion to approve the Larkspur Colorado Front Range Trail Intergovernmental Agreement.

RESULT: Approved

MOVER: Hostetler

SECONDER: Guerra

AYES: Drybread, Guerra, Hostetler, O'Malley, Parr, Sage

ABSENT: Shandro

II. Open Space & Natural Resources 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan – Dan Dertz, Director, and Scott McEldowney, Assistant Director, Open Space & Natural Resources

Mr. Scott McEldowney presented the agenda item for the Open Space & Natural Resources 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan. The plan is intended to identify the need for funding of future projects and is subject to change based on various factors such as the result of the ongoing work related to the vision for the extended sales tax, or future land acquisitions. Historically this plan has been included in the annual Open Space budget that is approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Members of COSAC and staff engaged in a collective discussion on various aspects of the proposed plan as presented.

Motion to approve the Open Space and Natural Resources 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan as presented and including proposed changes to remove items that are ongoing maintenance items or operational in nature, and to also remove staffing.

RESULT: Approved

MOVER: Drybread

SECONDER: Guerra

AYES: Drybread, Guerra, Hostetler, O'Malley, Parr, Sage

ABSENT: Shandro

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- COSAC entered executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a),(b) and discussed the potential acquisition of specific real property in Douglas County for preservation as open space. The discussion included the costs, benefits, and relative merits of potential property acquisitions, existing protections and encumbrances, limitations upon use, wildlife, natural resources, terrain, surrounding properties, and how the property relates to the objectives of COSAC and Douglas County. COSAC also received legal advice from an assistant county attorney regarding executive sessions and compliance with the Colorado Open Meetings Law.

Motion for COSAC to enter into an executive session.

RESULT: Approved

MOVER: O'Malley

SECONDER: Hostetler

AYES: Drybread, Guerra, Hostetler, O'Malley, Parr, Sage

ABSENT: Shandro

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

After adjourning the executive session, COSAC members came back to the regular COSAC meeting. COSAC Chair, Jay Sage stated that COSAC was now finished with the executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a),(b) for the purposes of discussing the potential acquisition of specific properties and legal advice, stated that no decisions were made in the executive session, and asked for a motion for adjournment.

Motion to adjourn the regular COSAC meeting.

RESULT: Approved

MOVER: O'Malley

SECONDER: Guerra

AYES: Drybread, Guerra, Hostetler, O'Malley, Parr, Sage

ABSENT: Shandro

Staff Activity Report

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2023
TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION (COSAC)
FROM: DAN DERTZ, DIRECTOR OF OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CC: MARY ANN MONZANI, OPEN SPACE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
SUBJECT: STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY

Attached is the monthly Staff Activity Report. This report is being presented to COSAC for review as an informational item. All items will include a brief description of certain notable Open Space programming or operational activities. Included with this report are:

- Dawson Butte Open Space – Favorite Hike & Volunteerism
- Temporary Trail Closures at Dawson Butte
- New Staff Introductions

Dawson Butte & Volunteers are a Winning Combination...

Dawson Butte continues to be one of the most beloved open space properties by citizens of Douglas County and beyond. This year Dawson Butte Open Space and Trails was named the "Best Favorite Hike Denver Metro" by readers of the Colorado Sun.

<https://coloradosun.com/best-of-the-colorado-sun-2023/>
<https://coloradosun.com/best-denver-metro-favorite-hike/>



Not only do the forests, meadows, and scenic vistas of this open space serve as a draw for outdoor enthusiasts, it is the commitment and work of our Open Space volunteers. These dedicated partners of Douglas County help to maintain and manage over 7 miles of trails and 60 equestrian jumps located on this property encompassing more than 600 acres of protected open space. Since the beginning of 2022, over 1,600 volunteer hours have been donated at Dawson Butte Open Space from various volunteer groups including:

- Community Service Groups
- Mounted Patrol
- Naturalists
- Researchers
- Trail Ambassadors
- Trail Crew
- Weed Warriors

These volunteers and stewards of the open space lands in Douglas County have been involved with such activities as leading interpretive hikes, managing noxious weeds, maintaining miles of trail, patrolling our open spaces, and providing valuable information for our trail users.

Dawson Butte Open Space could not have received the designation of Best Favorite Hike in the Denver Metro area without the dedication and efforts of our invaluable volunteers. Thank you and congratulations!









Memorandum

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2023
TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRITTANY CASSELL, CURATOR
CC: LAUREN PULVER, PLANNING SUPERVISOR
KATI CARTER, AICP, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING RESOURCES
SUBJECT: HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HISTORY REPOSITORY UPDATE

SUMMARY

This is the update of activities for the historic preservation program and History Repository for all of 2023.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UPDATE

Evans Homestead Stabilization

The stabilization work on the Evans Homestead began in early 2023. The homestead is located on the Lincoln Mountain Open Space property. Project work completed up to this point has been the removal of the plaster walls and floors so that the structure could be jacked up to stabilize the foundation. The photo below highlights this portion of the work completed. The project will also include installation of new roofs to the additions and lightning protection, which should be completed in December 2023.



Visit to the Rockridge Cemetery

On June 23, the County Curator took a citizen out to visit the Rockridge Cemetery. The citizen grew up in Douglas County and is a relative of the Schreiber family, who is buried at the cemetery. He enjoys visiting multiple time a year to honor his family, but this was his first time seeing the restoration work done on the headstones.



Historic Preservation Tour

On September 8, the Curator took staff, Historic Preservation Board members, County Open Space Advisory Committee members, and Parks Advisory Board members on a tour of five historic sites and the Repository. The tour group received brief historic background on each of the sites and information regarding project work to preserve the structures. The Curator also provided a tour of the Repository and provided opportunity to see artifacts that are not currently on public display.



Prairie Canyon Ranch Barn Restoration

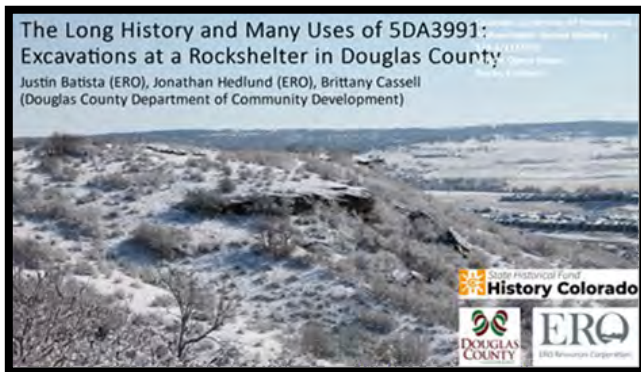
State historic grant funds were used to stabilize the large red barn at Prairie Canyon Ranch. The restoration work included foundation stabilization, second floor stabilization, window and door restoration and a new ramp into the second floor.



REPOSITORY UPDATE

Colorado Council for Professional Archaeologists Conference

On March 10th-11th, the Colorado Council for Professional Archaeologists (CCPA) held their annual meeting in Ouray, Colorado. ERO, the cultural resource company that managed work at the current rockshelter excavation site, presented an overview of the project to the CCPA. Brittany Cassell co-authored the presentation. ERO also presented an overview on various archeological sites in Douglas County, comparing the transition from the Middle Archaic time period to Late Archaic time period in the Palmer Divide area.



Donation Made to the Repository

On June 14, resident Pawel Tarasenko donated an 1880s historic brass bed frame to the Repository. Mr. Tarasenko donated the bedframe for the purpose of display inside a County owned historic structure.



Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners

The Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners reached out to the Curator and asked if the County could provide artifacts at the Cherry Creek Watershed Conference. On August 24th, the Curator displayed artifacts from the Rueter-Hess Reservoir project to tie in with the water theme. One table displayed the mining artifacts from the Muldoon Mine and the other table displayed prehistoric artifacts. The conference not only covered water challenges of today but also presented on the history of water control in the area and how humans have been modifying their environment with water for a long time.



Rockshelter Excavation Second Grant

The County was awarded a second State Historic Funds Grant to continue excavation efforts at the County rockshelter. To date, between both excavations, more than 35,000 artifacts have been recovered.





First Paleontology Collection Deposited from Scott Spring Site

In August, the Repository acquired its first paleo collection from the Scott Spring site in the Roxborough area. Two large mammoth jaw fragments and 10 boxes of fossils were a part of the collection. A leading expert in mammoth fossils, Dr. Russell Graham, visited the Repository during the deposit. He is pictured below in the red hat.



Colorado Archaeological Society/Pikes Peak Chapter Tour

On October 1, the Curator gave Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) a tour of the Repository highlighting the Blackfoot Cave collection and then traveled to the Blackfoot Cave site. CAS had 14 members attend the tour representing multiple chapters including Denver, Pikes Peak, Rock Art, and Pueblo. The CAS members not only got to see artifacts from the excavation but heard from Repository volunteers who worked the excavation for eight seasons.

There is evidence that prehistoric people occupied the cave and surrounding area from 10,000 years before present (BP) through 1540 AD. Evidence also shows that the cave and surrounding area was occupied by modern tribes from the 1540s through the 1840s. European contact occurred as early as the 1540s by the Spanish Conquistadors in the North American Continent. The cave is also associated with a trail that became known as the Cherokee Trail in the mid-1800s.

The group appreciated the tour and in return gave a generous \$50 donation to the Repository. Noted below is the thank you letter from CAS.

"Thank you for hosting the Colorado Archaeological Society at our 2023 annual meeting in visiting Blackfoot Cave and viewing the artifacts from the cave. Field trips to archaeological sites are the most effective educational opportunities for our members. CAS has a special connection to this site as members of the Denver chapter participated in the investigation there."

An additional thank you for the County's investment in the tour was also received:

"I was part of the Colorado Archaeology Society tour of the Repository and Blackfoot Cave Open Space and would like to thank you for the delicious lunch you provided all of us. It was a great day and Brittany Cassell the Curator and other volunteers were very informative and passionate about the preservation program. What a terrific resource!"



Town of Parker's Indigenous People's Day

The Curator participated in the Town of Parker's Indigenous People's Day event held for Town employees. Brittany brought artifacts found at the Rueter-Hess Reservoir site and was available to answer questions. She received the following note of appreciation from the Parker Arts Cultural Director for participating in the event:

"I wanted to say thank you for being a part of our Indigenous People's Day event at the Town of Parker. I heard the artifacts that you brought were great and that many of our employees were interested to hear what you and your volunteers had to say. I really appreciate all you did and please let us know if there is ever anything we can do for you."

International Archaeology Day

International Archaeology Day was held on October 21, 2023, at Red's Rocks Amphitheater. The event is a celebration of archaeology and its contributions to society. A new record of attendees was set with 997 people coming and interacting with exhibitors. Douglas County hosted a booth at the event highlighting the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) and the History Repository. Volunteers from the Repository and HPB talked with visitors about the County's historic resources, the new virtual museum, and the extension of the Parks, Trails, Historic Resources, and Open Space tax.



Virtual Museum

The County launched a new virtual museum to the public on October 21, 2023. The virtual museum now offers a Douglas County timeline and breaks up human occupation by time periods to tell the story of Douglas County history. It is designed to educate the public on archaeology and historic information and offers links to lesson plans for teachers. The virtual museum offers access to the entire Douglas County curated collection which is now over 22,000 artifacts. The new museum can be found here: [Virtual Museum/History Repository - Douglas County](#)

COSAC Strategic Initiative Agenda Item

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2023
TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION (COSAC)
FROM: DAN DERTZ, DIRECTOR OF OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CC: MARY ANN MONZANI, OPEN SPACE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
SUBJECT: COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FINAL DRAFT REVIEW

SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

The Douglas County Open Space Advisory Committee (COSAC) and Open Space & Natural Resources (OSNR) staff have identified a need to develop a COSAC Strategic Initiative (CSI). Earlier this year, COSAC and staff attended a retreat for development of a draft CSI. The document drafted as a result of the retreat, along with a staff assessment of that draft, were presented at the May COSAC meeting. At that meeting, COSAC was asked to review both documents for discussion at a future time.

At the August COSAC meeting, both the COSAC Strategic Initiative 2023 Draft 1 – Preliminary Documentation, as well as the COSAC Strategic Initiative 2023 Draft 1 – Preliminary Documentation including Staff Assessment were presented. These CSI draft documents were the same as presented at the May COSAC meeting. The staff recommendation presented at the August meeting was to approve the CSI Draft 1 – Preliminary Documentation developed from the retreat.

At the August meeting, proposed additions and edits to the CSI draft were presented by COSAC member Jennifer Drybread. Members of COSAC and staff engaged in an initial review and discussion of the information provided by Ms. Drybread. At the completion of this initial review, COSAC agreed to have Ms. Drybread incorporate the recommendations into a redlined copy of the CSI draft and forward to staff for review. Thereafter, any further changes/additions would be added to the redlined CSI draft. At the conclusion of that review, the updated version would then be distributed as an agenda item for the September COSAC meeting. COSAC also agreed that time would be allotted at the meeting to review the updates to the CSI draft with any remaining review to be scheduled for a future COSAC meeting.

The redlines of the CSI Draft were reviewed at the September 7th meeting. At that meeting COSAC reviewed all the latest revisions and recommended changes/and additions. COSAC also requested that a visual be created to organize and capture all the elements of the CSI similar to that of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners Board Priorities.

DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION

Staff is requesting COSAC to review the attached updated CSI Final Draft and be prepared potentially adopt CSI Final Draft. At the December 7th COSAC meeting, staff will be presenting

various options for a visual summary for all the elements of the CSI.

ATTACHMENT

COSAC Strategic Initiative 2023 Final Draft



COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2024

The COSAC Strategic Initiatives (CSI) is an internal strategic framework developed by and for the Douglas County Open Space Advisory Committee (COSAC) in 2023 to help guide its Open Space funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Accordingly, the CSI is a living document to ensure it is relevant and continues to meet the needs of the County and its citizens. To accomplish this, staff and COSAC will review the plan annually at the beginning of each year and revise as necessary.

**COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
2023 RETREAT
Final Draft**

Administration of Sales Tax Funds

Goal/Objective (What we want to accomplish)	Strategy/Tactic (How we want to accomplish it)
<p>Provide transparency and oversight in the expenditures of sales and use tax funds</p> <p>Support the proper management of open space properties and easements, in compliance with Resolution No. R-022-085</p>	<p>Provide COSAC a monthly summary of accounting of the Open Space funds, including revenues and expenditures</p> <p>Review compliance reports annually on conservation easements or other protective measures; recommend compliance measures or other corrective action to the BoCC, if necessary</p> <p>Report annually to the BoCC the status of assets purchased with the Fund monies, including a review of ownership status, conservation easements, monitoring reports and other items of interest. The Annual Report includes expenditures over the preceding two years and proposed expenditures in the succeeding two years, with a view to establishing priorities for the Fund monies. The Annual Report is presented and reviewed at a joint meeting of the BoCC, COSAC, Historic Preservation Board, and the Parks Advisory Board, and is available to the public</p> <p>Recommend a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan to the BoCC for review and approval</p> <p>Recommend to the BoCC amendments to Conservation easements or any sales, leases, trades, or other conveyances, or any exclusive license or permits</p>

Acquisitions and Easements

Goal/Objective (What we want to accomplish)	Strategy/Tactic (How we want to accomplish it)
<p>Acquire and preserve open space properties that maintain and contribute to the existing character, resources (natural and cultural resources), and sense of place within the County and provide significant benefit to County residents</p> <p>Identify and preserve important landmarks and features that contribute to the natural and built environment of the County, including water bodies, agricultural lands, forest lands, cultural and historic resources, and scenic vistas as viewed from the major road network and key public places</p>	<p>List and prioritize properties based on conservation values</p> <p>Reevaluate and update the 2010 Design Workshop maps and corresponding vision map</p> <p>Monitor possible properties for purchase</p>

**COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
2023 RETREAT
Final Draft**

<p>Protect lands that benefit wildlife, ecosystems, habitats, and linked movement corridors</p> <p>Ballot language: Preserve open space lands and provide trails and parks in Douglas County</p> <p>Protect, maintain, and add parks, trails, historical resources, and open spaces, wildlife habitats, and buffers between communities</p> <p>Conserve lands along streams and lakes that also help protect water quality</p> <p>Conserve working farms and ranches</p> <p>Preserve scenic views and landmarks</p> <p>Create and maintain recreational amenities</p> <p>Maintain and conserve historic preservation sites</p> <p>Be good stewards of the open space fund by considering and minimizing extensive future maintenance and remediation costs in the acquisition decision-making process</p> <p>Build relationships with landowners whose properties have high priority open space values</p>	<p>Acquire lands adjacent to parks and public open lands that prioritize connectivity and protect open space values</p> <p>Perform Phase I Environmental Survey prior to recommendation to the BoCC</p> <p>Establish partnerships with OSNR staff, conservation groups, and others where appropriate, to proactively build relations with landowners and develop opportunities for conservation</p> <p>Monitor conservations easements as required by the conservation easement</p> <p>Find an organization to partner with and conduct landowner workshops</p> <p>Maximize ability to protect properties via maximum partner match goal (\$2.92 to \$1.00)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Easement Fee simple Conservation easement grants Partners, private Others and federal government <p>Leverage open space revenues with partner dollars and in-kind services, grants, and additional funding sources for acquisition and management activities</p> <p>Place a conservation easement on all fee acquisitions funded in full or in part by OS Sales Tax</p>
<p>Identify and conserve buffers between communities to provide community separation and sense of place</p> <p>Protect strategic properties that maintain a distinct identity for, and separation between, distinct communities</p>	<p>Work collaboratively with municipalities and rural town center communities to identify important buffers</p> <p>Reevaluate and update community separator maps and 2010 design workshop map</p> <p>Work in partnerships to conserve key buffer properties</p>

**COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
2023 RETREAT
Final Draft**

Public Access and Safety

Goal/Objective (What we want to accomplish)	Strategy/Tactic (How we want to accomplish it)
Develop access to County open space while maintaining and managing existing facilities	Create trails and trailheads where appropriate
Design facilities and programs that meet the needs of a variety of users and provide opportunities for community interaction that balance future community needs with protection of conservation values	Refine, develop, and adopt (high-level and site-specific) land management plans to serve as a basis for proposed site uses, protection measures, and management of open space lands
Balance the needs and desires for public use of open space properties and features with other identified open space values	Work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to identify areas of County open space lands necessary for temporary wildlife closures Create opportunities to link open space areas, regional parks, trails, national forest, and municipalities
Provide access and improve recreational opportunities for special populations within open space facilities, as appropriate	Conduct a study of publicly accessible open space properties, including trailheads and trails to determine where additional work is needed to create opportunities for all visitors
Ensure all publicly accessible County-owned open space properties have components that are ADA compliant	
Trails and Amenities Communicate where to find Open Space information to the public Develop and implement an official Open Space sign program	Use internal and outside resources via email, website, social media, and Public Relations to communicate with the public on open space properties Budget for 2024 to hire and work with a consultant for a sign program
Patrol and Enforcement Provide safe and secure open space public facilities Actively protect open space resources to enhance visitor safety	Develop an official Ranger training and onboarding process for both seasonal and full-time employees Install electric-powered or solar-powered gates at each trailhead Install cameras at each trailhead for safety Leverage Internet of Things (IOT)
Mitigate fire risk to open space resources and surrounding areas with consideration of open space values	Hire contractor to start assessment of viable areas in need of fire management Offer public viewing and interpretation on County measures with prescription burn/mitigation

**COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
2023 RETREAT
Final Draft**

	<p>Communicate to the public through staff and outside resources via email, website, and Public Relations when we have fire mitigation</p> <p>Collaborate with agency partners and Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) for prescription burns</p> <p>Work with local fire protection districts, to identify, provide, and maintain defensible space around historic structures on open space lands</p>
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Interpretation and Education

Goal/Objective (What we want to accomplish)	Strategy/Tactic (How we want to accomplish it)
Foster public outreach, public relations, and education	<p>Add a self-guided interpretive signs program</p> <p>Create a place on the County website to publicize research findings and their importance</p> <p>Develop a geology trail – have an interpretation and route for guided access</p> <p>Collaborate with local agencies to consolidate resources and increase outreach on educational opportunities</p> <p>Develop a public survey program (active, passive, in person and online)</p> <p>Create a user-friendly activity calendar on the website</p> <p>Create a hikes and events program calendar for the community, e.g., hikes for seniors, birds of prey driving tour, Prairie Canyon history, Explore Sandstone, Guided tour of the Orchard, etc.</p>
Ensure a well-trained volunteer corps	Offer routine training opportunities
Implement Dark Skies on current and future properties	<p>Provide Educational opportunities</p> <p>Attend meetings with the Denver Astronomical Society to grow partnerships and connections</p>

**COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
2023 RETREAT
Final Draft**

	<p>Construct, in partnership with others, an observatory and implement other dark sky strategies at Sandstone Ranch</p> <p>Ensure compliance with County lighting standards on all open space properties</p>
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Natural and Historic Resources

Goal/Objective (What we want to accomplish)	Strategy/Tactic (How we want to accomplish it)
Provide historic and cultural preservation opportunities	<p>Plan, fund, maintain, and provide access where possible to historic structures, in collaboration with the Douglas County Historic Preservation team.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with County, municipal and other historic and cultural preservation agencies</p>
Maintain and enhance ecosystem health, e.g., grasslands, forest, wetlands, agriculture	<p>Design improvements and establish activities that protect and enhance wildlife habitat and ecosystems</p> <p>Identify, monitor, and manage activities that impact wildlife, natural, cultural, and historic resources on open space lands</p> <p>Leverage partnerships for funding and work</p> <p>Preserve, protect, and improve historic, prehistoric, and paleontological resources on open space lands</p> <p>Enhance habitat and maintain wildlife movement corridors by utilizing wildlife-friendly fencing, where appropriate</p> <p>Improve open space lands through resource management activities to support natural ecological processes and wildlife carrying capacity</p> <p>Control noxious weeds</p> <p>Continue native plant recovery, plantings, and management</p> <p>Provide opportunities for innovative agriculture practices to occur on County open space</p>

**COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
2023 RETREAT
Final Draft**

	<p>Work with appropriate land trusts to ensure compliance with management plans on properties with conservation easements</p> <p>Monitor and report on all surface water rights on a yearly basis</p>
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Volunteers and Partnerships

Goal/Objective (What we want to accomplish)	Strategy/Tactic (How we want to accomplish it)
Foster a robust volunteer program	<p>Engage citizens as volunteers in onsite management of open space lands</p> <p>Offer a train-the-trainer program; send a lead volunteer to a training, then have them train a team/group</p> <p>Hire a volunteer coordinator as a full-time position; manage, handle, and track all things volunteer</p> <p>Develop and standardize an official OSNR New Volunteer Training Program to occur quarterly</p> <p>Provide monthly trainings for volunteers using Offero/activities. Staff or outside resources will teach the training</p> <p>Get all volunteers on Offero. Have a lead or team manager present at each activity with an iPad to register any volunteer that isn't already in Offero.</p>
Seek collaborative opportunities with potential partners	<p>Work with government and partner agencies to achieve mutual open space goals through cooperative acquisition, planning, development, and management of open space</p> <p>Build multi-agency relationships to enhance resource protection and emergency response capabilities</p> <p>Work with partner agencies, organizations, and private parties to develop and secure no- or low-cost resources, including conservation easements and donations</p>

**COSAC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
2023 RETREAT
Final Draft**

	<p>Create a partnership program with recruiting with local businesses, schools, youth, and recreation organizations</p> <p>Evaluate and protect open space resources and systems through a process that includes key agencies and stakeholders and allows for public participations and comment</p> <p>Assure a community involvement process that includes input from citizens, stakeholders, and other entities in accordance with adopted County policies, conservation easements, and the Sales Use Tax</p> <p>Create and maintain a list of funding partners</p>
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